MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
JUN '97 365
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT, DD--
--DON'T MESS WITH THE Molten Man!
DIRECT EDITION
$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

OSBORN CHEMICAL 8:15 AM.
BIG DAY TODAY, VIN... BIG DAY.
YES IT IS, SIR. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THE BOOT LICKING QUOTIENT TO BE AT THE MEETING?
HMMM. PROBABLY ABOUT AN EIGHT. WILLIAMS WON'T LET THE BOARD GET OUT OF HAND.
COURSE, IT OUGHTTA BE A FIFTEEN FOR ALL THE GARBAGE THEY PUT ME THROUGH.
BUT I AIN'T GONNA THINK ABOUT THAT TODAY. AIN'T GONNA LET NOTHING RUIN MY MOOD...
...'CAUSE TODAY, EVERY-ONE WILL KNOW, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT MARK RAXTON IS A STAND-UP GUY!
GOODBYE, MOLTEN MAN. HELLO RESPECT!
I BELIEVE HE'LL REST IN PEACE, SIR...
...THANKS TO A LITTLE HELP FROM DAREDEVIL!
YEAH, THE OL' HORNHEAD REALLY CAME THROUGH FOR ME. NOT EVERYONE WOULD TAKE A CHANCE LIKE THAT --
-- AW GEEZ. WILL YA LOOK AT ME HERE...
...I CAN GO FIFTEEN ROUNDS WITH SPIDER-MAN, TWIST STEEL PIPING LIKE STRING, OR MELT A 747 INTA SLAG...
...BUT I STILL CAN'T GET THE HANG OF SILK TIES.
TOOK MY PAROLE OFFICER THREE WEEKS TO TEACH ME HOW TO DO IT, BUT NOW I CAN TIE A WINDSOR KNOT IN MY SLEEP/
AND NOW LOOK AT YOU/ RIGHT-HAND MAN TO THE MANAGER OF OSBORN CHEMICALS/ NOT TOO SHABBY FOR AN EX-CON.
THANK YOU, SIR.

HARD WORKIN'. STRAIGHT SHOOTIN'... NOWHERE T'GO BUT UP FER YOU, VIN.
THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY, SIR.
I AIN'T JUST YAPPIN', VINCENT. I KNOW WHEN EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS RIPPIN' OFF THE COMPANY, YOU SPOKE UP FOR ME --
-- EVEN THOUGH IT COULDA' MEANT YOUR JOB.
LOYALTY LIKE THAT... FAITH... IT MEANS A LOT IN THIS WORLD, VIN.
IN FACT, AT OSBORN, IT MEANS A PROMOTION.
A PROMOTION WHOA/ Mr. RAXTON, I --
HEY, WE EX-CONS GOTTA HELP EACH OTHER OUT, RIGHT?
BESIDES, DD TRUSTED ME... ONLY SEEMS RIGHT TA RETURN THE FAVOR, Y'KNOW? LIKE KARMA.
DON'T BE LATE FOR THE MEETING, VIN.
I WON'T, SIR. BYE... AND THANKS!
IS THAT A KICK OR WHAT? VINNIE GRAZIA WITH AN HONEST TO GOD PROMOTION/
MY WIFE'S NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS/ MY PAROLE OFFICER'S NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS/
WELCOME TO THE GOOD LIFE, VINNIE. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

8:25 AM. SOHO. NEW YORK CITY.

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

Stan Lee Presents

A QUESTION OF TRUST

NEW YORK CITY IS INFAMOUS FOR ITS *GLUT* OF CRYPTIC *STREET SIGNS.*

SOME WOULD ARGUE THAT IT TAKES A DEGREE FROM *COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY* AND A *PENTIUM PROCESSOR* TO DECIPHER MOST OF THE PARKING REGULATIONS.

AS A RESULT, MANY NEW YORKERS CHOOSE TO *IGNORE* THE MARKERS AND PRAY FOR A *SYMPATHETIC* EAR IN COURT.

TAKE MY HAND!

BUT IGNORANCE OF THE LAW DOESN'T GET YOU VERY FAR WITH A TRAFFIC JUDGE.

IT DOESN'T HELP MUCH UNDER A COLLAPSED WATER MAIN THIRTY FEET *BELOW* HOUSTON STREET, EITHER.

CARY NORD PENCILER...

MATT RYAN INKER...

CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORIST...

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS...

JAYE GARDNER EDITOR...

AND... BOB HARRAS CHIEF...

Matthew Ryan

...WELCOME ABOARD, DD'S NEW SCRIBE: JOE KELLY!

WITH SPECIAL THANKS AND BEST REGARDS TO KARL KESEL AND JAMES FELDER.

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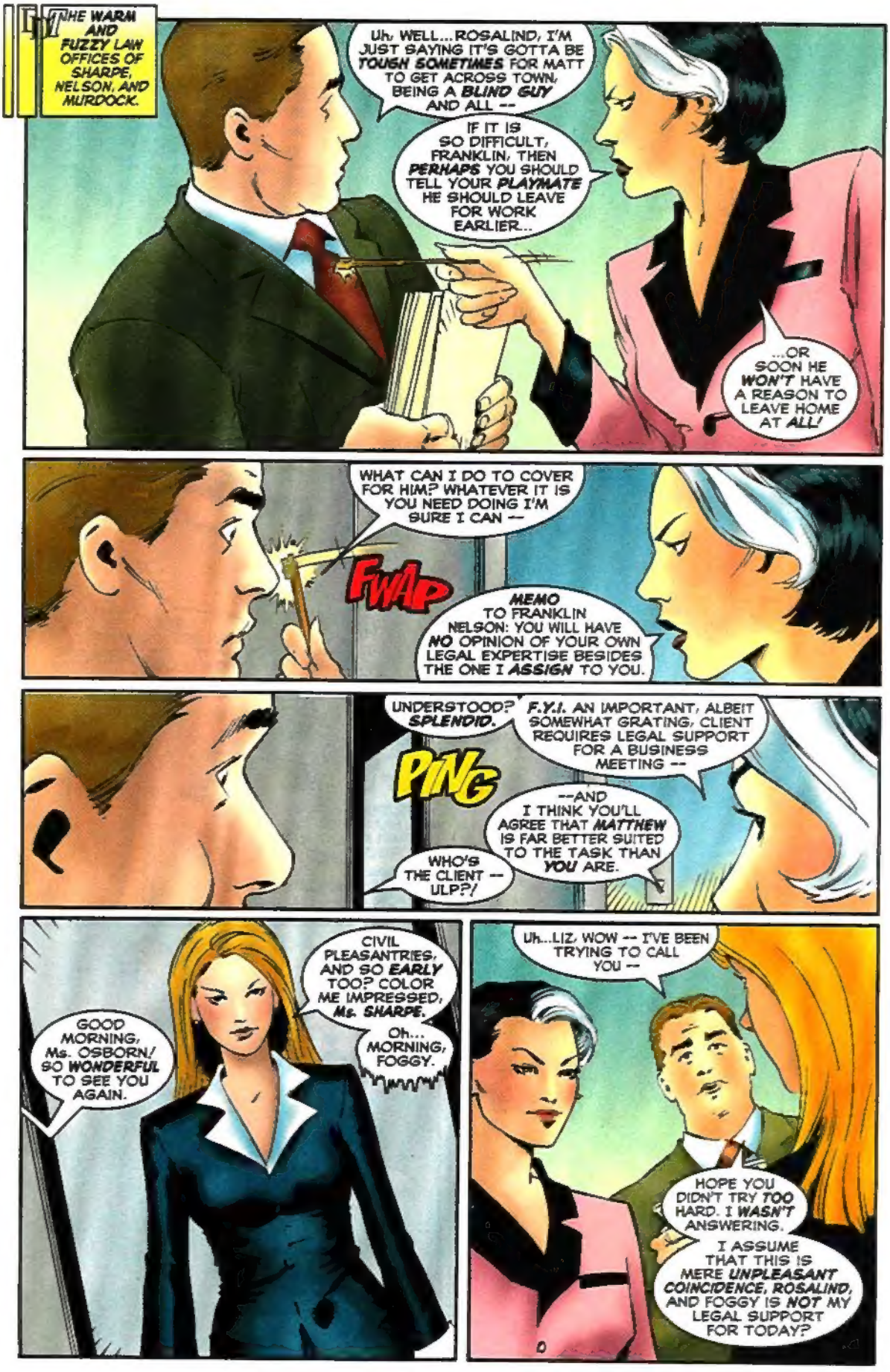
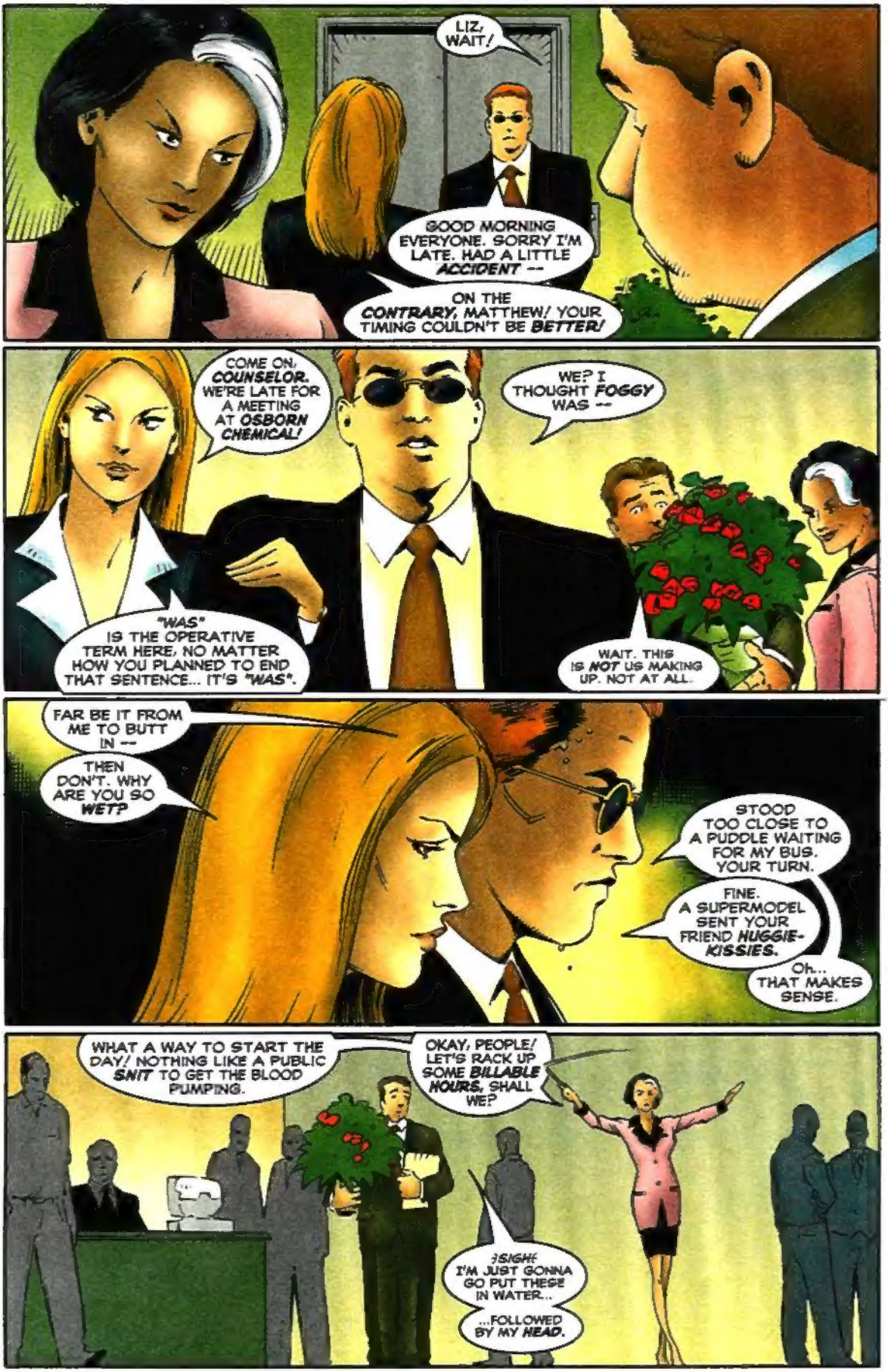
IN CASE YOU'VE EVER WONDERED, THE SIGN, "HOLLOW SIDEWALK: DO NOT PARK" ACTUALLY SERVES A LOGICAL PURPOSE.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU DRIVE A THREE TON GARBAGE TRUCK.
GO ON, LOUIE! GRAB HIM!
GET YOUR SCRAWNY BUTT TOPSIDE, STRING-BEAN!
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS HARDLY AS EASY AS I MAKE IT LOOK --
-- SO IF ONE OF YOU WOULD KINDLY GET A MOVE ON --
YOU GOT KIDS! YOU GO FIRST!
NO WAY, LOUIE, I AIN'T NO COWARD!
I BELIEVE THIS DISPLAY OF KINDNESS IS WHAT THEY CALL A NEW YORK MOMENT --
-- ONE DESTINED TO BE SHORT-LIVED.
KRONNK
THE SOUND IS UNMISTAKABLE. CORRODED STEEL BUCKLING. RUST GRINDING AGAINST GRAVITY.
WE HAVE ABOUT NINETY SECONDS BEFORE THE WHOLE SHEBANG GIVES WAY...
...I STAY OPTIMISTIC...
NOW I DON'T WANT YOU TODDLING OFF, LOUIE! I HEAR THERE'S ALLIGATORS DOWN HERE.
OKAY... I AIN'T MOVIN...
...ALTHOUGH, REALLY, IT'S A WONDER ALL OF NEW YORK CITY DOESN'T COLLAPSE.
JUST HURRY... PLEASE...
IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE PLACE IS HELD UP BY FAITH.

FAITH THAT YOUR FELLOW NEW YORKERS WON'T LEAVE YOU HANGING --
-- NO MATTER WHAT THE PRESS SAYS ABOUT THEM...
...FAITH THAT THE BILLS GET PAID. THAT THE SUN COMES UP. THAT THE YANKEES WILL WIN AGAIN...
...FAITH THAT HEROES ALWAYS RETURN.
IN AN INSTANT, THAT BELIEF IS TESTED. MY HYPER-SENSES PAINT THE SCENE THIRTY FEET BELOW --
-- FEEL THE VIBRATION OF WRENCHING METAL THROUGH MY FINGERS. HEAR LOUIE'S MUFFLED GRUNT. SMELL CONCRETE DUST.
I DON'T NEED EYES TO FIGURE OUT THAT MY MATH WAS OFF BIG TIME.
WHICH IS A GOOD THING...
HOW LONG IS THIS CABLE?
'BOUT A HUNDERT YARDS -- HEY, WHAT'RE YOU --?
FSSH
JUST A TAD LONG... BE A PAL AND PULL THE BREAK AS FAST AS YOU CAN, WOULD YOU? SUPER.
HOLEE -- DAREDEVIL/ THE WINCH?!
KACHINK
...CONSIDERING MY EYES DON'T WORK ANYMORE.

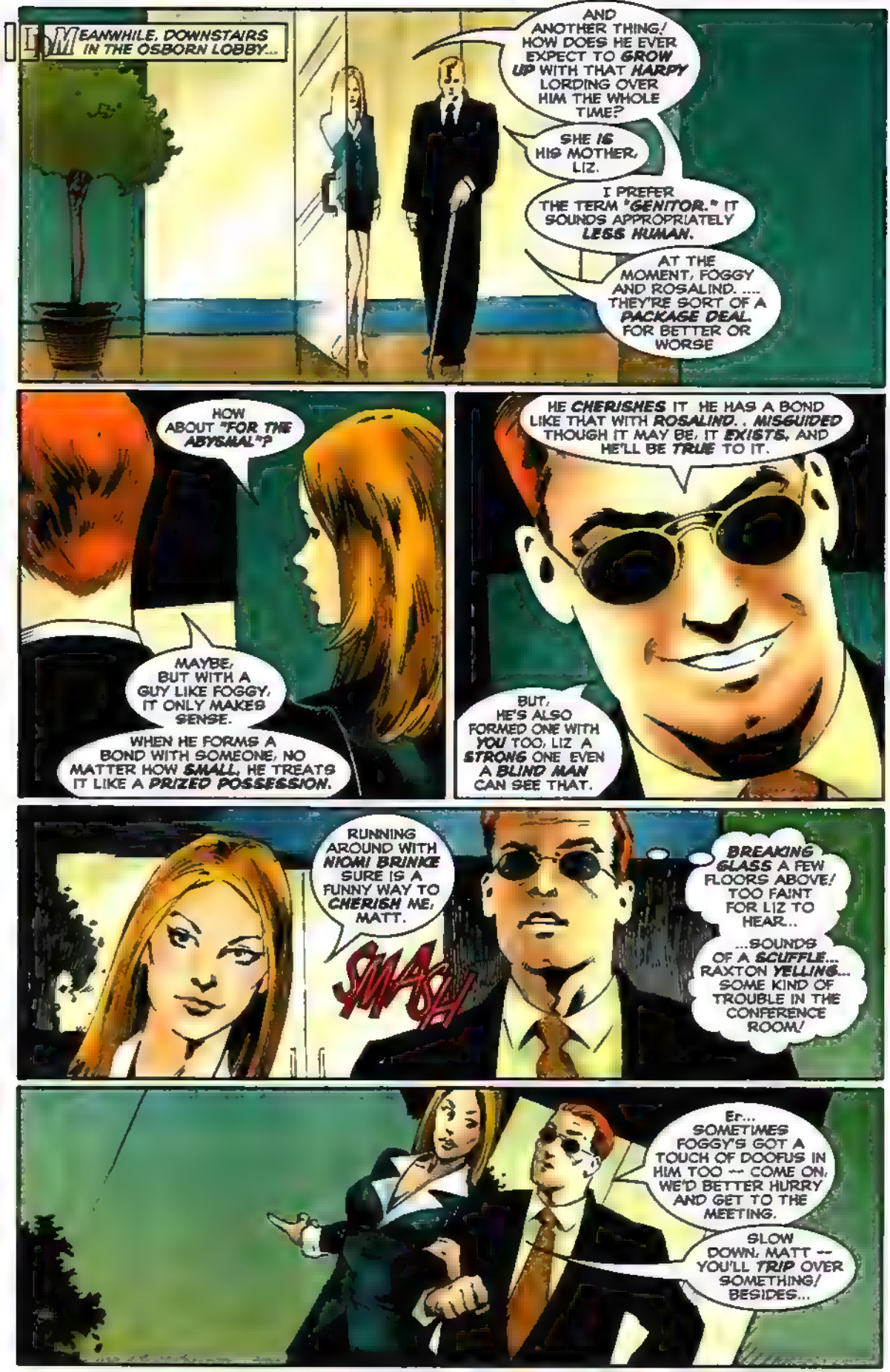
A SECOND OF FRICTION AS I PUSH FROM THE ASPHALT CEILING... AND THEN JUST SPACE.
THE FORCE OF THE RUSHING TORRENT HASTENS MY CONTROLLED DESCENT...
...RADAR SENSE KEEPS ME ON TARGET...
...AND SOMETHING ELSE MAKES MAKE SMILE IN SPITE OF IT ALL.
AS I REACH OUT THROUGH THE MIST, I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE...
...LOUIE NEVER SCREAMS.
SURE, HE SUCKS IN AN INVOLUNTARY BREATH, HIS HEART BEAT IS OFF THE MAP, BUT STILL, HE JUST HANGS THERE IN THE DARK...
WAITING QUIETLY, DEFIANTLY.
DARING ME TO PROVE THAT HIS FAITH IN THIS CITY, IN ITS HEROES, IS WELL-FOUNDED... THAT HE'S NO FOOL.
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "MAYBE HE GOT HUNG UP SOMEWHERE?!"
WHERE IS MATT MURDOCK?!


THE WARM AND FUZZY LAW OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON, AND MURDOCK.
Uh, WELL... ROSALIND, I'M JUST SAYING IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH SOMETIMES FOR MATT TO GET ACROSS TOWN, BEING A BLIND GUY AND ALL --
IF IT IS SO DIFFICULT, FRANKLIN, THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR PLAYMATE HE SHOULD LEAVE FOR WORK EARLIER...
...OR SOON HE WON'T HAVE A REASON TO LEAVE HOME AT ALL!
WHAT CAN I DO TO COVER FOR HIM? WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED DOING I'M SURE I CAN --
FWAP
MEMO TO FRANKLIN NELSON: YOU WILL HAVE NO OPINION OF YOUR OWN LEGAL EXPERTISE BESIDES THE ONE I ASSIGN TO YOU.
UNDERSTOOD? SPLENDID.
F.Y.I. AN IMPORTANT, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT GRATING, CLIENT REQUIRES LEGAL SUPPORT FOR A BUSINESS MEETING --
PING
--AND I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT MATTHEW IS FAR BETTER SUITED TO THE TASK THAN YOU ARE.
WHO'S THE CLIENT -- ULP?!
GOOD MORNING, Ms. OSBORN! SO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
CIVIL PLEASANTRIES, AND SO EARLY TOO? COLOR ME IMPRESSED, Ms. SHARPE.
Oh... MORNING, FOGGY.
Uh...LIZ, WOW -- I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU --
HOPE YOU DIDN'T TRY TOO HARD. I WASN'T ANSWERING.
I ASSUME THAT THIS IS MERE UNPLEASANT COINCIDENCE, ROSALIND, AND FOGGY IS NOT MY LEGAL SUPPORT FOR TODAY?

OF COURSE, LIZ, FOGGY ALREADY HAS HIS HANDS FULL WITH SOME OF OUR --
-- MORE PRESTIGIOUS CLIENTS.
NO, I'M NOT! THIS ISN'T EVEN MY WORK! SEE --!
HEY, WHERE'D I PUT THOSE FILES...
THAT'S ABSOLUTELY FINE WITH ME.
LIZ, I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR DAYS TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CLUB -- GIVE A GUY HIS DAY IN COURT BEFORE YOU CONDEMN HIM!
YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING, FOGGY. IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE EXCLUSIVE OR ANYTHING.
YOU CAN SEE WHOEVER YOU WANT... AND I CAN USE WHATEVER COUNSEL I CHOOSE.
I DO HAVE TO EXPLAIN, LIZ, BECAUSE YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME! READ MY LIPS, NOTHING HAPPENED WITH NIOMI BRINKE!
SNAP
MISS BRINKE! WHY, FRANKLIN, I COMPLETELY FORGOT!
SUNNY, FETCH ME THE PACKAGE THAT CAME FOR FRANKLIN.
AREN'T THEY SIMPLY GORGEOUS?
THE FRAGRANCE IS TRULY AROMATIC, Ms. SHARPE.
Oh, LOOK, A CARD! "DEAREST FOGGY -- I HOPE THAT YOU ARE MAN ENOUGH TO ACCEPT FLOWERS FROM A MODEL!" TEE-HEE...
"HUGGIE-KISSIES, NIOMI." ADORABLE, NO?
HUGGIE-KISSIES? WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
I'D BE MORE CONFUSED ABOUT THE "MAN ENOUGH" PART MYSELF! HMMPH!


LIZ, WAIT!
GOOD MORNING EVERYONE. SORRY I'M LATE. HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT --
ON THE CONTRARY, MATTHEW! YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER!
COME ON, COUNSELOR. WE'RE LATE FOR A MEETING AT OSBORN CHEMICAL!
WE? I THOUGHT FOGGY WAS --
"WAS" IS THE OPERATIVE TERM HERE, NO MATTER HOW YOU PLANNED TO END THAT SENTENCE... IT'S "WAS".
WAIT. THIS IS NOT US MAKING UP. NOT AT ALL.
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO BUTT IN --
THEN DON'T. WHY ARE YOU SO WET?
STOOD TOO CLOSE TO A PUDDLE WAITING FOR MY BUS. YOUR TURN.
FINE. A SUPERMODEL SENT YOUR FRIEND HUGGIE-KISSIES.
Oh... THAT MAKES SENSE.
WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY! NOTHING LIKE A PUBLIC SNIT TO GET THE BLOOD PUMPING.
OKAY, PEOPLE! LET'S RACK UP SOME BILLABLE HOURS, SHALL WE?
SIGH! I'M JUST GONNA GO PUT THESE IN WATER...
...FOLLOWED BY MY HEAD.

OSBORN CHEMICAL. THE BOARD ROOM.
WE REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING ON WITH THIS... LITTLE GET-TOGETHER OF YOURS, RAXTON.
Aw, DON'T HAVE A DAIRY FARM, WILLIAMS! YOUR PLATE OF CROW WILL STILL BE WARM IN FIVE MINUTES
THIS IS MY DAY, AND IF I SAY WE WAIT FOR LIZ T'SHOW UP, WE WAIT!
VINCENZO, MY BOY! GRAB A CHAIR!
ANY WORD FROM MY STEP-SISTER YET?
Y-YES, SIR... SHE CALLED AHEAD... SHE'LL BE ARRIVING WITH Mr. MURDOCK ANY MOMENT NOW
I THOUGHT FOGGY NELSON WAS GONNA COME WITH HER. AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME IN GOOD WITH DAREDEVIL!
Oh, WELL . HEY, YOU ALRIGHT, KID?
YES S-SIR... WHY?
YER A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE GILLS LIKE YOU RAN INTA ME IN A DARK ALLEY OR SOMETHIN'! HA!
NO — I — I DON'T KNOW WHY, SIR... MAYBE I'M ILL...
WELL, TRY AN' HOLD YOUR LUNCH FOR THE MEETING. AFTER THAT YOU CAN TAKE THE DAY OFF.
I MEAN, I WOULDN'T WANT YA PASSIN' OUT AT YER COMPUTER OR NOTHIN', RIGHT?
HEY, WILLIAMS, HAVE ONE OF YOUR CRONIES TURN THE HEAT DOWN IN HERE. I'M GETTIN' UNCOMFORTABLE...


MEANWHILE, DOWNSTAIRS IN THE OSBORN LOBBY...
AND ANOTHER THING! HOW DOES HE EVER EXPECT TO GROW UP WITH THAT HARPY LORDING OVER HIM THE WHOLE TIME?
SHE IS HIS MOTHER, LIZ.
I PREFER THE TERM "GENITOR." IT SOUNDS APPROPRIATELY LESS HUMAN.
AT THE MOMENT, FOGGY AND ROSALIND. .... THEY'RE SORT OF A PACKAGE DEAL. FOR BETTER OR WORSE
HOW ABOUT "FOR THE ABYSMAL"?
MAYBE, BUT WITH A GUY LIKE FOGGY, IT ONLY MAKES SENSE.
WHEN HE FORMS A BOND WITH SOMEONE, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, HE TREATS IT LIKE A PRIZED POSSESSION.
HE CHERISHES IT. HE HAS A BOND LIKE THAT WITH ROSALIND. . MISGUIDED THOUGH IT MAY BE, IT EXISTS, AND HE'LL BE TRUE TO IT.
BUT, HE'S ALSO FORMED ONE WITH YOU TOO, LIZ. A STRONG ONE. EVEN A BLIND MAN CAN SEE THAT.
RUNNING AROUND WITH NIOMI BRINKE SURE IS A FUNNY WAY TO CHERISH ME, MATT.
SMASH!
BREAKING GLASS A FEW FLOORS ABOVE! TOO FAINT FOR LIZ TO HEAR..
...SOUNDS OF A SCUFFLE... RAXTON YELLING... SOME KIND OF TROUBLE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM!
Er... SOMETIMES FOGGY'S GOT A TOUCH OF DOOFUS IN HIM TOO -- COME ON, WE'D BETTER HURRY AND GET TO THE MEETING.
SLOW DOWN, MATT -- YOU'LL TRIP OVER SOMETHING! BESIDES...

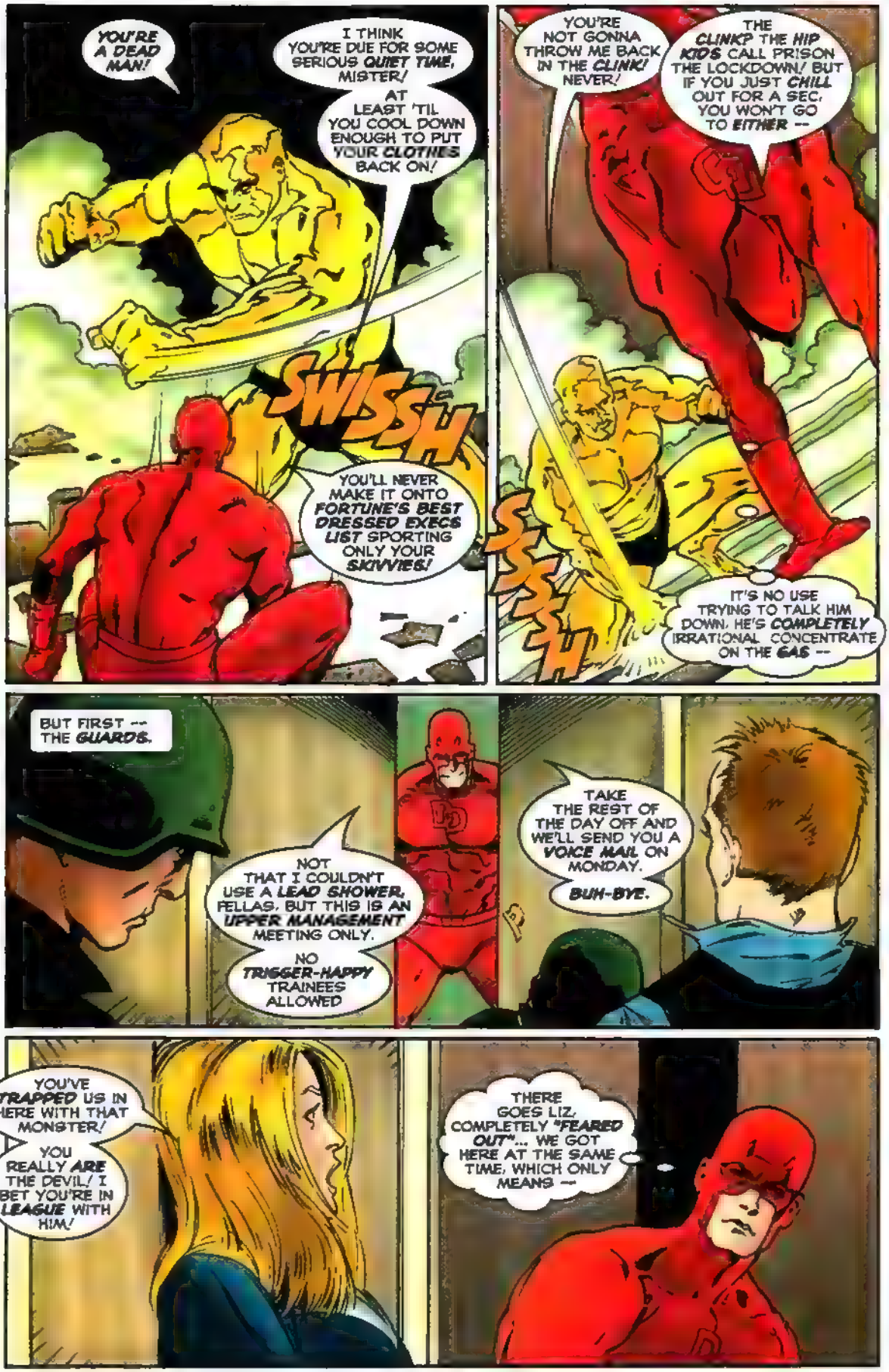
"...MARK WON'T LET THE PARTY START UNTIL WE GET THERE..."
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME, WILLIAMS?
SEE! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT!
THIS IS A BOARD ROOM, NOT A BAR ROOM!
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A... A BELLIGERENT THUG IN THIS ORGANIZATION!
YOU SUITS HAVE BEEN HAMMERIN' AT ME SINCE DAY ONE! YOU KEEP TRYING TA BREAK ME DOWN --
-- BUT NO ONE'S GONNA MUSCLE ME OUT OF OSBORN!
NO ONE!
UNHAND ME, RAXTON! SOMEONE CALL SECURITY! NOW!
MARK!
OUT OF MY WAY!
CALL SECURITY!
MARK! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HE'S CRAZY!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG! EVERYONE IS SWEATING BULLETS... ADRENALINE IS POURING OUT OF THESE GUYS LIKE WATER..
...AND IN THE AIR... IMPERCEPTIBLE TO A NORMAL NOSE... IS THAT... GAS?
YES! POURING OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE TABLE... IT'S FEAR GAS!
BUT INSTEAD OF TURNING EVERYONE INTO COWARDS, IT'S HEIGHTENED THE SUSPICIONS THE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE ABOUT RAXTON...
...AND FANNED HIS PERSECUTION COMPLEX INTO A RAGE!
I'VE GOT TO GET THAT TOXIN OUT OF HERE BEFORE RAXTON LOSES CONTROL...

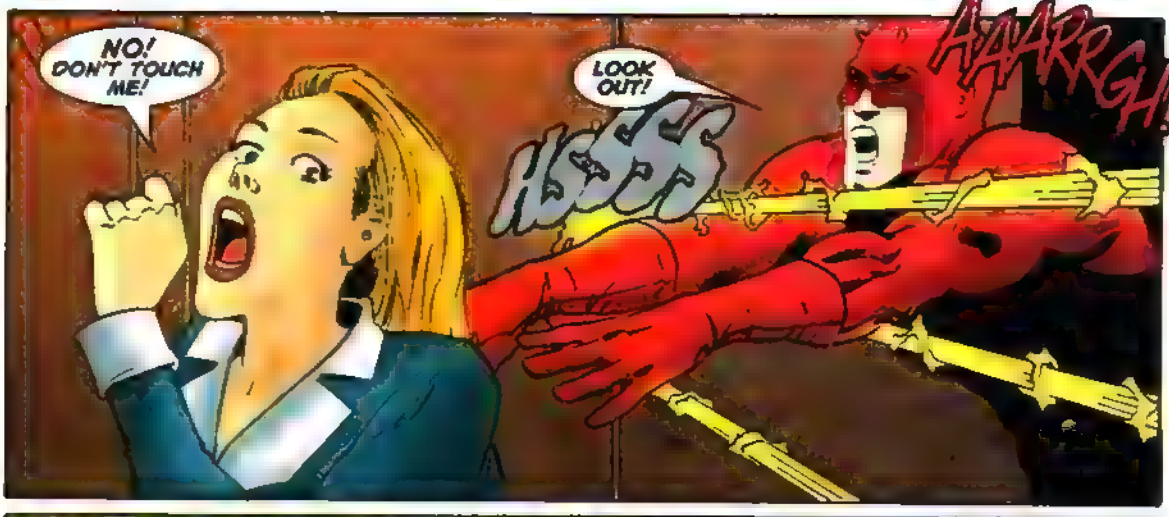
...BUT HOW, WITHOUT REVEALING --
BACK OFF, LIZ, BEFORE I FORGET WE'RE RELATED!
RAXTON, WHATEVER THIS IS ABOUT, I'M SURE WE CAN --
MARK, PLEASE. YOU'RE HEATING UP! IF YOU DON'T LET WILLIAMS GO --
I'M NEVER GONNA LET GO! YOU HEAR ME?!
I DESERVE THIS JOB, BUT THEY'VE BEEN SETTING ME UP FROM THE BEGINNING TO FAIL, AND FOR THAT...
...SOMEONE'S GONNA DIE!
ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL TO THE BOARD ROOM! THIS IS A LEVEL TEN CRISIS!
FULL RIOT PROTOCOL!
PERFECT. RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, Mr RAXTON.
A RAMPAGING EX-SUPER-VILLAIN MAKES FOR A SPECTACULAR DISTRACTION
GO ON... RUN OFF AND PLAY SOLDIER. SLAY THE MOLTEN DRAGON.
BUT LEAVE THE DEVIL BE. BECAUSE HIS DESTINY LIES IN THE HANDS OF...
MR. FEAR!
GENTLEMEN... THE STORE IS OPEN.

THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE. . YOU'VE GOT TO HELP MARK!
HELP HIM? LADY, WE'RE GONNA PERFORATE HIM IF HE DOESN'T PUT THAT MAN DOWN!
SO MUCH FOR ASKING QUESTIONS FIRST! I CAN HEAR THE TENDONS IN THEIR FOREARMS TIGHTENING...
THOSE SHOTS AREN'T GOING TO DO ACK TO THE MOLTEN MAN, BUT UNLESS INVULNERABILITY IS A FAMILY TRAIT ---
OKAY, PUNK! I'LL PUT HIM DOWN -- SO HE NEVER GETS UP!
LIZ, WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHO'S HERE -- WOOPS!
OOF! MATT! ARE YOU ALRIGHT --?
NO! YOU LUNATICS! STOP IT!
FIRE!
GOTTA LOVE THE CLUMSY BLIND GUY ROUTINE IN A PINCH. NOW TO GET LIZ TO SAFETY AND --
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A BLIND MAN, MATTHEW! GET IN THIS CLOSET AND KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
MARK'S STILL MY BROTHER. I CAN TALK TO HIM!
BUT --
WELL, THAT WASN'T ESPECIALLY P.C. OF LIZ...
...BUT I'LL TAKE A QUIET MOMENT OF PRIVACY ANY WAY I CAN GET IT!

YOU'RE ATTACKING ME WITH MY OWN SECURITY TEAM?! AIN'T THAT THE MOST!
I HANDPICKED THE LOT OF YOU! BROUGHT YOU UP FROM NOTHING —
— AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME?
RRRIPP
I DON'T THINK THAT THE GAS HAS HIT ME YET, BUT SINCE IT SEEMS TO BE A DERIVATIVE OF THE USUAL GOODS —
— I WON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL AFFECT ME UNTIL IT DOES.
AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT TRYING TO SNEAK PAST A BLISTERING MANIAC TO GET AS CASE OF POISON GAS WAS JUST GOING TO BE THE SAME OLD STUFF...
WHAMM
I'LL PULVERIZE THE LOT OF YOU!
OOH, THAT'S GONNA STING. BUT THE GUARDS ARE HEAVILY ARMORED. THEY'LL BE FINE UNTIL I GET IN POSITION.
OF COURSE, I'VE YET TO ASK MYSELF THE QUESTION —
"SELF? WHERE THERE'S FEAR GAS, ISN'T THERE USUALLY A CERTAIN SKULL-FACED GHOUL LURKING NEARBY?"
HEY — WHAT'S THAT?

RADAR'S FUZZY THROUGH THE SHEETROCK, BUT IF I JUST CONCENTRATE I CAN MAKE OUT --
IT'S Mr. FEAR! HE'S GOT HIS MEN LOADING BARRELS INTO A TRUCK!
I'LL BET MY BILLY-CLUB THAT THEY'RE THE VERY SAME CHEMICALS INSOMNIA AND THE GRAY GARGOYLE TRIED TO STEAL LAST WEEK!
RAXTON'S RAMPAGE HAS JUST BEEN A DIVERSION WHILE FEAR ROBS THE PLACE BLIND!
IF I STOP RAXTON, THEN FEAR WILL HAVE ENOUGH RAW CHEMICALS TO ENSLAVE A CITY! BUT IF I DON'T...
OH GOD HE'S. HE'S REALLY GOING TO KILL ME...
NO, HE'LL NEVER HURT HIS SISTER. TALK TO HIM!
YOU WANNA BET, WILLIAMS? SHE'S JUST LIKE THE REST OF YOU! PRETENDIN' TO BELIEVE IN ME, JUST TO SET ME UP FOR A FALL!
I'M GONNA MAKE THIS HURT... REAL BAD --
GRRP
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU IT'S NOT NICE TO THREATEN YOUR STEP-SISTER WITH THIRD DEGREE BURNS?!
DAREDEVIL!


YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
I THINK YOU'RE DUE FOR SOME SERIOUS QUIET TIME, MISTER!
AT LEAST 'TIL YOU COOL DOWN ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON!
SWISSH
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT ONTO FORTUNE'S BEST DRESSED EXECS LIST SPORTING ONLY YOUR SKIVVIES!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA THROW ME BACK IN THE CLINK! NEVER!
THE CLINK? THE HIP KIDS CALL PRISON THE LOCKDOWN! BUT IF YOU JUST CHILL OUT FOR A SEC, YOU WON'T GO TO EITHER --
SSSSH
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO TALK HIM DOWN. HE'S COMPLETELY IRRATIONAL. CONCENTRATE ON THE GAS --
BUT FIRST -- THE GUARDS.
NOT THAT I COULDN'T USE A LEAD SHOWER, FELLAS. BUT THIS IS AN UPPER MANAGEMENT MEETING ONLY.
NO TRIGGER-HAPPY TRAINEES ALLOWED
TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF AND WE'LL SEND YOU A VOICE MAIL ON MONDAY.
BUH-BYE.
YOU'VE TRAPPED US IN HERE WITH THAT MONSTER!
YOU REALLY ARE THE DEVIL! I BET YOU'RE IN LEAGUE WITH HIM!
THERE GOES LIZ, COMPLETELY "FEARED OUT"... WE GOT HERE AT THE SAME TIME, WHICH ONLY MEANS --

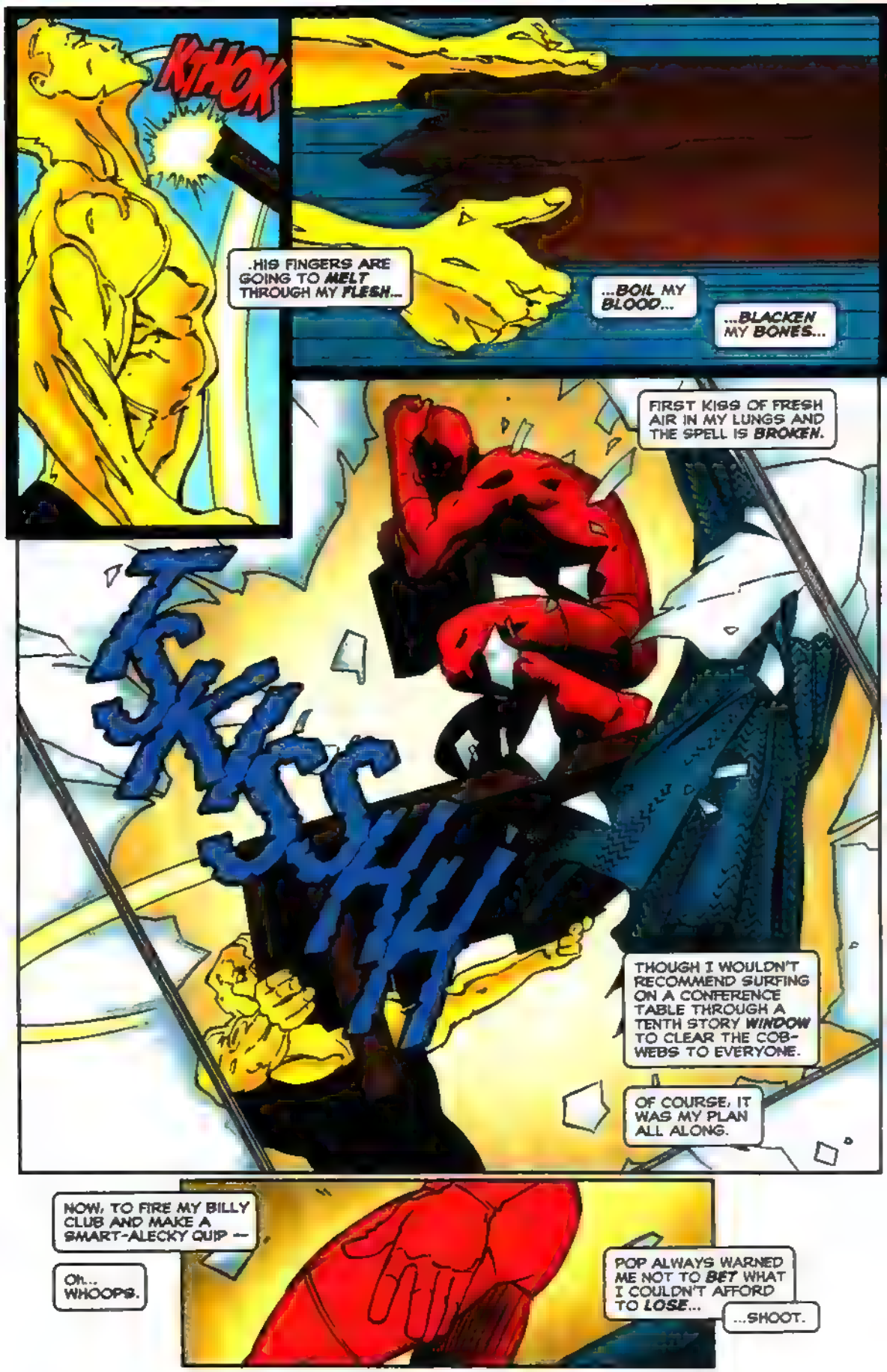

NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
LOOK OUT!
HSSS
AAARGH!

GEE, NO "THANKS A LOT, DD"P WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED.
MOLTEN METAL RIPPED ACROSS MY ARM. THE PAIN! SO INTENSE!
I'M ON FIRE. NO, IT'S THE GAS EXACERBATING MY EMOTIONAL REACTIONS.
I — RAXTON! YOU HAVE TO STOP! YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL —!
NO, I'M IN COMPLETE CONTROL, HORNHEAD! AND I'M TAKIN' WHAT'S MINE.
I'M TAKIN' BACK MY JOB... MY LIFE... MY DIGNITY!

NO MORE LIES AND INNUENDOS...
THE PAIN. JUST STAND STILL... OR HE'LL HURT ME AGAIN...
WHAT'S HE DOING? RADAR ALL SCREWED UP. IS HE MELTING THAT CHAIR?

YOU'LL ALL LEARN TA RESPECT ME.. EVEN IF I HAVE T'BURN RESPECT INTA YA!
I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO! I CAN'T THINK!

SO STOP THINKING AND REACT.
PUSH OFF, HEAD DOWN...
THE PAIN IS KILLING ME!
NO, FEAR IS KILLING ME...
..JUST LIKE IT'S EATING AT RAXTON
THIS GAS HEIGHTENS OUR INNER DEMONS, OUR WEAKNESSES. IT GIVES THEM POWER.
REMOVE THE GAS... THE DEMONS REMAIN...
.BUT IN THE LIGHT WHERE WE CAN FACE THEM.
THE DEVIL HAS COME FOR ME... I DESERVE IT . DESERVE IT ALL SO WEAK.
OF COURSE, THAT BEING SAID...
...THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK... I JUST KNOW IT
I'M NOT FAST ENOUGH
NOT STRONG ENOUGH
HE'S GOING TO WRAP HIS SMOLDERING HANDS AROUND THE BACK OF MY THROAT AND


KTHOK
...HIS FINGERS ARE GOING TO MELT THROUGH MY FLESH...
...BOIL MY BLOOD...
...BLACKEN MY BONES...
FIRST KISS OF FRESH AIR IN MY LUNGS AND THE SPELL IS BROKEN.
KSSSHH
THOUGH I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND SURFING ON A CONFERENCE TABLE THROUGH A TENTH STORY WINDOW TO CLEAR THE COB-WEBS TO EVERYONE.
OF COURSE, IT WAS MY PLAN ALL ALONG.
NOW, TO FIRE MY BILLY CLUB AND MAKE A SMART-ALECKY QUIP —
Oh... WHOOPS.
POP ALWAYS WARNED ME NOT TO BET WHAT I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LOSE...
...SHOOT.

FORGIVE ME FOR I HAVE SINNED PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
WOOOSH
I -- Oh, GOD, MARK?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? ONE MINUTE THIS WAS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE AN' THEN...
I.. I DON'T DO THIS ANYMORE... I --
-- I CHANGED.
MARK, WHAT I SAID.. I'M SORRY --
DAREDEVIL!
HEY! WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LUCID, MARK!
I HAD TO CRASH THE MEETING EARLIER, 'CAUSE THEY WOULDN'T LET ME IN WITHOUT A TIE ON...
BUT THINGS SEEM TO HAVE GONE CASUAL. ANY CHANCE YOU'D CONSIDER INVITING ME BACK IN?
GET UP HERE, YOU...
..AND THANKS, DD... THANKS.
ANYTHING FOR A STAND-UP GUY, RAXTON.

I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY, RAXTON! YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!
HOLD ON A SEC, MISTER BOSS-TYPE MAN...
MARK ISN'T TO BLAME! CHECK OUT THE CHEMICAL TRACES IN THIS AND YOU'LL SEE...
-- WE WERE ALL AFFECTED BY THE SAME GAS, COURTESY OF ONE Mr. FEAR! IT WAS A SET-UP... ...IN FACT, IF YOU CHECK YOUR INVENTORY, YOU'LL FIND IT A COUPLE OF BARRELS SHORT.
Oh MY GOSH, MATT! HE'S STILL IN THE CLOSET!
Uh, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE BARRISTER, Ms. OSBORN.
I HIGH TAILED Mr. MURDOCK TO SAFETY WHILE I WAS UP IN THE RAFTERS.
ALTHOUGH IN MY RUSH, I THINK I LEFT HIS SHOES IN THE CLOSET! OF ALL THE STUPID --!
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON?
I DIDN'T! MY PAL FOGGY NELSON GAVE ME A CALL, THINKING I MIGHT WANT TO SEE RAXTON GET HIS APOLOGY.
GOOD THING HE'S SUCH A THOUGHTFUL GUY.
EVERYBODY FREEZE!
NO ONE MOVE!
GET THE #$%$&@! DOWN!
BEAUTIFUL ENTRANCE, BOYS. T.J. HOOKER WOULD BE PROUD.
HOLD YOUR FIRE! GET DOWN TO THE CHEMICAL PLANT! THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A ROBBERY!
BUT ONE OF YOU STAY BEHIND TO PUT THAT MAN INTO CUSTODY!

GIVE IT A REST, WILLIAMS! VINNIE WAS ALL MIXED UP BY FEAR'S GAS TOO!
RIGHT, VIN?
VINNIE? TELL HIM...
I... I BROUGHT THE CASE IN... VOLUNTARILY. I WAS WORKING FOR FEAR...
DID HE THREATEN YOU, VIN? THAT SON OF --
NO... IT WAS... IT WAS FOR MONEY. I... I'M SORRY, MR. RAXTON.
NO... NOT YOU, VINNIE... SAY IT AIN'T SO...
HIS HEART JUST DID THE MAMBO! HE'S LYING! WHY WOULD HE PROTECT FEAR? UNLESS HE'S BEING COERCED, BUT WHY?
"WHAT WOULD FEAR WANT WITH A KID LIKE VINNIE?"
AT LAST... THE PIECES FALL INTO PLACE.
I HAVE PLUNDERED OSBORN..
...THE BOY HAS PLAYED THE PAWN TO PERFECTION...
...ALL THAT REMAINS...
...IS TO CLOSE THE NOOSE...
...AROUND THE DEVIL'S NECK...
...AND SQUEEZE!
NEXT- FLASHBACK!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016. Please include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

JAYE GARDNER ● EDITOR

DAN HOSEK ● ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOB HARRAS ● EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear Daredevil,

I didn't think it possible. I didn't think even Karl Kesel could turn Razor Sharpe into an almost sympathetic character. What do I know anyway?

I also like the pseudo-retro feel we're getting here lately, from Daredevil's dog to Daredevil's pal, Foggy Nelson. Hmm, seems vaguely reminiscent of another super-character Karl Kesel has worked on. However, these references pretty much end there, as Kesel has added to them and used them in different ways with Daredevil's supporting cast. Daredevil's pal is suddenly put upon by his boss/mother to use his newfound celebrity for his own self-interest. Poor Foggy looks as confused as he can be by this situation (I hope we get to see his appearance on Letterman done in the comic. It's been a long time since the Avengers visited Letterman.)

It's also interesting to see how different inkers can affect a penciler's work in different ways. The last couple of pages seem very well defined, while some of the pages leading up to them are more open and clean. I think I liked the opening few pages the best.

Augie DeBlieck Jr.
(Address withheld by request)

Karl's run on DD was a good one, Augie, and we hope you're enjoying the work of new super-writer Joe Kelly. If you haven't checked out Joe's work on DEADPOOL, pick up an issue, it's great. And speaking of Deadpool and Daredevil's dog, keep your eyes peeled for DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97. You'll never guess what's gonna happen to the Devildog!

Dear Editor,

Re: DAREDEVIL #363...Gene "the Dean" Colan back on DAREDEVIL where he belongs. Awesome!!! There is a God in heaven, after all! Any chance of seeing Gene's art on a new TOMB OF DRACULA book?! Welcome back, Mr. Colan, you were missed.

Dave Pfeil
1537 Route 212
Saugerties, NY 12477

Well, Dave, maybe Gene would have had time to do that TOMB OF DRACULA comic if we didn't pick him up as the regular penciler of DAREDEVIL! Starting next issue, with FLASHBACKS month, Gene's takin' over! Which might leave you wondering what Gary Nord's next few projects are. Well, he'll be penciling the WOLVERINE FLASHBACK issue this May, then a SILVER SURFER issue in June. Be sure to check them out!

Devil's Advocate,

Daredevil has always been one of Marvel's most unique and creative characters set on the borderline of the Marvel Universe. You never see Daredevil involved in galactic crossovers or in any major events rocking the rest of Marvel's storylines. DD has always been a character on a mission to stop crime and protect as many people as possible through the judicial system. The DD stories I know and love involve him in a dark and violent plot, even though his character is a bright, loving pacifist. DD knows that he can't win the war, but he fights anyway, proving the subtitle, MAN WITHOUT FEAR.

The creative team of Kesel and Nord started out on the right track with the Mr. Hyde storyline involving a murder that entangled both Matt Murdock and Daredevil. But then the "scarlet swashbuckler" DD persona from the 60's became the storyline. Don't get me wrong, I like the new stories, I just like the Miller/Janson, Miller/Mazzuchelli and the Nocenti/Romita Jr. or Weeks storylines better. What I described above is a DD tradition that has been absent since issue #300. Here are my suggestions:

1. Bring back an organized crime boss like the Kingpin that keeps both DD and Matt's hands tied.
2. Instead of DD fighting other people's enemies, bring back characters like the Hand, Typhoid Mary, Bullseye, Bullet and Bushwacker.
3. Since all the Marvel heroes are gone, crossovers are almost obsolete. DD should fight alongside other borderline characters like Iron Fist or the Master of Kung Fu.
4. Remember, even though Karen Page is a goody-goody now, her past is darkened by heroin addiction and pornographic films. This is being ignored and shouldn't be.

The new DD is great, but bring back the dark DD persona of past plots! Oh, I almost forgot, thanks for not involving DD in the HEROES REBORN series. DD had no business being there. Thanks for your time!

Jon Minerich
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Jacksonville, AL 36265

Thanks for writing, Jon. To see what the Kingpin's been up to, check out recent issues of X-MEN. Since ol' Wilson Fisk is in Hong Kong, you never know when a team-up with Shang-Chi might happen! Joe Kelly has plans to make the book a bit edgier, yet keeping a touch of the lighter side reintroduced by Karl.

Devil's Advocate,

DAREDEVIL #362 was another very interesting issue. The current creative team of Karl Kesel and Gary Nord is really working miracles on these pages, bringing back the classic Man Without Fear again, complete with a fine sense of humor—finally, after all these years!

"Never Look Back," the tale presented in this very issue, was actually a bit of a break from the norm that has been established over the past issues. This time, Daredevil didn't have to fight any costumed villains or uncover some secret agenda by covert criminal organizations. Instead he had to fight some ghosts from Rosalind Sharpe's past and this approach really paid off.

No matter how entertaining it is to see Matt swing around the city in his Daredevil costume, trading powerful punches and jokes with a dangerous antagonist, a focus on one of the supporting characters like Rosalind can be just as intriguing. It was about time a story delved into Sharpe's past. She has become too important a supporting character to be ignored.

With none other than Gene Colan coming back to take care of the art chores for one issue, DAREDEVIL is definitely on an upswing with no end in sight anytime soon. I've been with this book for over 100 issues now already and it really is more entertaining than it has ever been since the classic Nocenti/Romita Jr. days, and that says a lot!

Olav Beemer
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Europe

As stated before, Olav, Gene's here for good! Thanks for the compliments. We hope to take the book to even greater heights with our new creative team. Let us know what you think!

NEXT ISSUE:

It's FLASHBACKS month and Joe and Gene are taking us back to a time before there was a Daredevil. Back to when Matt Murdock was just entering college and he learns an important life lesson from none other than his father, Battlin' Jack Murdock! Be here in thirty, true believer!

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